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972.230.9600

City Lights DeSoto, Texas

A publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department



The Town Center Project is Nearing Completion

The retail and office spaces in the Town Center Project along Pleasant Run and Hampton Road will soon be complete and the entire project is taking shape. The final phase of the project will require that the DeSoto Library Book Drop be moved from the drive on the north (back) side of the Library to an area near the front door of the Library. This will be the permanent location for the Book Drop. To drop off your books, just enter the drive from Pleasant Run Road, place the book in the drop and continue through the new Parking Garage exiting on Hampton Road.

Once the Library Book drop is moved, the fire lane on the north (back) side of Town Center will close for repairs and construction. You will no longer have the ability to drive around the back side of the building and exit on to Hampton Road. Barricades will go up at the traffic circle on the east side of City Hall and traffic will not be allowed to continue to the back side of the Recreation Center, Civic Center or Library. This access is expected to be closed up to 45 days. Civic Center Patrons are asked to use the front entrance off of Pleasant Run Road and will be allowed to use the temporary loading zone area between the Civic Center and Library. Once you have unloaded, please move your vehicle from the temporary loading zone as quickly as possible and park in the Parking Garage.

Construction of the mixed-use facility at Town Center is nearing completion and if you haven't seen the new facilities, we invite you to come and take a look. Lincoln Properties is managing the residential units and has an office on site. Retail leasing is handled by CB Richard Elliot. If you have any questions regarding the facilities at Town Center, please call City Administration at 972.230.9643.



The new four level Parking Garage is now open and available for use by Town Center visitors and residents. The Garage can be accessed by entering the courtyard from Pleasant Run Road as well as from Hampton Road. Motorist can use the entrance to the Garage pictured above and exit the complex to Hampton Road through the Garage.



A new façade and landscaping welcomes visitors to the east entrance of City Hall. All entrances, including those on the west side of City Hall, the Recreation Center, Corner Theatre, Civic Center and Library are now open and accessible.

Give Us Your Saturday Morning and We'll Help You Improve Your Neighborhood

Information is a key element in effective involvement. The city will host the fourth annual HOA Involvement Workshop on Saturday, May 16, 2009 from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to provide you the information you need to make your neighborhood a better, safer place to live.

Consisting of two general sessions and one break-out session, this free workshop will provide information on:

- Ways To Be Involved with City Programs
- An Update on the City's Capital Improvement Plan
- Inside Information Provided by an HOA Officer's Panel
- Energy Saving Tips
- Gardening and Landscaping Tips

Members of all registered DeSoto homeowner's associations are encouraged to attend whether your association is new or well-established. We'd also like you to attend if you are considering starting an association in your neighborhood.

To register or for more information, please call Tracie Hlavinka at 972.230.9689 or by e-mail at thlavinka@ci.desoto.tx.us.

Do You Feel Safe In Your Home?

Because the home is supposed to be a safe place for those who live there, home invasion is frightening and emotionally scarring. Fortunately, there are ways you can protect yourself.

Prevention works best. Harden your home or apartment with strong doors and locks with three-inch screws in the strike plate. Use a wide-angle peephole and instruct everyone in your family not to open the door to strangers.

There are several home protection components available for purchase that are effective at protecting your home. For increased security, use a combination of the following:

- **Motion-sensitive outdoor lighting**—This type of lighting will come on when there is movement around the outside of your home, alerting you to potential prowlers.
- **Cameras**—Whether it is a dummy camera or a real one, the presence of a security camera will cause potential invaders to avoid your home.
- **Alarms** - Alarms come in a wide variety of shapes, sizes and price ranges. An inexpensive door-stop alarm sounds when a door is opened, while more sophisticated systems are not only activated by doors and windows, but also can notify the authorities that the alarm has been activated.

If it makes sense to have an alarm system, then it should make sense to have it monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week by your local 911 emergency center. Alarm monitoring is now being offered as a fee based service by the City of DeSoto for \$25 per month. No long-term contract is required.

There is a cost associated with having your monitored system reprogrammed to be monitored by DeSoto's 911 Call Center. As a result, the city will waive the first three months of their monitoring fee to help offset any costs you may incur to have your system reprogrammed. **There is no faster response to your alarm system than the response provided by your city. For more information on the City of DeSoto Alarm Monitoring Program please contact 972.230.5248.**

CITY CALENDAR

May

- 2 Mother/Son Dance - Civic Center
- 4 Park Development Corp. Mtg. - 6:30 p.m. - Recreation Center
- 5 City Council Meeting - 7 p.m. - City Hall
- 7 National Day of Prayer - City Hall 7 a.m.
- 7 Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board Mtg. - 6:30 p.m. - City Hall
- 7 Library Advisory Board Mtg. - 7 p.m. - Library Conference Room
- 12 Police/Senior Citizen Symposium - free call 469-658-3055 to register
- 15 Police Memorial - Police Station 9 a.m.
- 16 HOA Involvement Workshop - City Hall 9 a.m. to noon
- 18 Arts Commission Mtg. - 6:30 p.m. - City Hall
- 19 City Council Meeting - 7 p.m. - City Hall
- 25 Memorial Day Holiday - City Offices and Facilities Closed
- 26 DEDC Board Meeting - noon - City Hall
- 26 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. - 7 p.m. City Hall

June

- 1 Park Development Corp. Meeting - 6:30 p.m. - City Hall
- 2 City Council Meeting - 7 p.m. - City Hall
- 4 Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board Mtg. - 6:30 p.m. - City Hall
- 4 Library Advisory Board Mtg. - 7 p.m. - Library Conference Room
- 9 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. - 7 p.m. - City Hall
- 13 Jazz Diner featuring Martha Burkes - Corner Theatre 7 p.m.
- 16 City Council Meeting - 7 p.m. - City Hall
- 20 Best Southwest Juneteenth Celebration - Lancaster
- 20 Town Hall Meeting - Sanitation Fund - City Hall 9 a.m.
- 22 DEDC Board Meeting - noon - City Hall



The picnic pavilions (picture above) at Ernie Roberts Park on Pleasant Run Road are now open and ready for use. There is one large pavilion that will accommodate up to 100 people and three smaller ones. To reserve a pavilion for your next event, please call Parks and Leisure Services at 972.230.9655.

DeSoto Library Introduces Extended Hours Computer Lab

Huge demand for use of the Library's Internet computers has prompted the creation of a new Extended Hours Computer Lab. The DeSoto Public Library's computers are now available before the main Library opens and after normal closing hours daily. The computers will continue to be available during the regular hours (Monday – Thursday 10 am – 8 pm, Friday 10 am – 6 pm, and Saturday 9 am – 5 pm).

The new extended hours schedule is:

Monday – Friday mornings	8 a.m. – 10 a.m.
Monday – Thursday evenings	8 p.m. – 10 p.m.
Sunday afternoons	1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Users must show Library staff their valid DeSoto Public Library card in order to use the computers during the extended hours. Users who have overdue materials, late charges, or lost materials on their Library accounts will not be able to use the computers. Persons who do not bring their DeSoto Library cards with them or do not already have library cards will also not be able to use the new computer lab.

The new Extended Hours Computer Lab is just one of the upgrades the Library has received recently. The DeSoto Public Library has also been repainted and new carpet has been installed. We invite you to come see all that the Library has to offer.

The DeSoto Public Library is located at 211 E. Pleasant Run Road, in the Town Center complex. Library patrons are invited to park in the new Parking Garage just a few steps away from the our front entrance. For more information, please call the Library at 972.230.9656.



Anyone with a valid DeSoto Public Library Card can use the Internet Computers in the Library's new Extended Hours Computer Lab. If you don't have a library card, please call 972.230.9656 for more information.

Code Enforcement Reminds Us To Keep City Rights of Way Clear of Obstructions

It is unlawful to block the city right of way with a portable basketball goal. It is also a safety hazard for children playing basketball in the street. Now that spring is in full swing, please keep basketball goals out of residential streets. If Code Enforcement identifies a violations, the basketball goal

will be tagged and the resident will have 48 hours to remove it from the right of way. If the basketball goal is not removed within the time allowed, it will be confiscated. To report a code violation in your neighborhood, please call the DeSoto Code Enforcement Office at 469.658.3075.



The Picnic Pavilions at Ernie Roberts Park Are Now Available For Use

Are you looking for a place to hold your next family reunion or birthday party? The picnic pavilions at Ernie Roberts Park, located at 515 E. Pleasant Run Road, are now available for use. There is one large pavilion that will accommodate up to 100 people and three smaller ones. The pavilions are available for rental in 5 hour increments, seven days a week. Please call the Parks & Leisure Services Department at 972.230.9655 for rental information. In addition to the pavilions, the Roy Orr Trail can be entered from Roberts Park and there is also a covered playground for the kids. Funding for construction of these pavilions was approved by voters as a part of the 2003 Bond Package.

The DeSoto Arts Commission Partners With Third Coast Arts Center to Offer A Special Jazz Dinner

On Saturday, June 13, 2009 at 7 p.m., the DeSoto Arts Commission will partner with Third Coast Arts Center to transform the DeSoto Corner Theatre into a Jazz Dinner Theater. The Arts Commission will serve a full catered meal and Third Coast Arts Center will provide the entertainment.

While you enjoy your dinner, you'll be treated to the piano styling's of Bobby Ray Sparks, II. Bobby plays and loves all kinds of music and has worked with everyone in the Gospel industry including Kirk Franklin, Fred Hammond, Yolanda Adams, Donnie McClurkin, Ce Ce Winans and Kurt Carr. He also has toured or worked with the top jazz artists such as Roy Hargrove, Marcus Miller, David Sanborn, and Kirk Whalum. Bobby most recently served as keyboard player with the Emerald City Band as they performed at a Congressional Christmas Party at the White House.

Following a short intermission, Third Coast Arts Center will introduce the main event, Martha Burks. Ms. Burks has been in the entertainment business for more than 20 years and is well known in our area for her stint at RJ's by the Lake and is currently the featured artist at the Brooklyn Jazz Cafe. She can scat with the best of them invoking imagery of Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughn, Billie Holiday, Anita Baker and more.

Make plans to join Third Coast Arts Center and the DeSoto Arts Commission at the DeSoto Corner Theatre, 211 E. Pleasant Run located in Town Center for this special Jazz Diner. Seating is limited. Tickets are \$30 per person and \$50 per couple. To purchase tickets or for more information, please call 972.230.9648. DeSoto Corner Theatre patrons are invited to park in the new Parking Garage located across the courtyard from the theater in Town Center.

Would you, or someone you know, like to receive an e-mail notification when new information is posted to the city's website? Its easy, just sign up for **Notify Me** on DeSoto's website at www.ci.desoto.tx.us. You can register to receive a notice when the latest edition of the City Lights Newsletter is available or each time a new City Council Meeting agenda is posted. You can also receive a notice on the newest job postings, the Weekly News Flash or performances in the DeSoto Corner Theater. Just click on **Notify Me** and follow the prompts or call 972.230.9648 for more information.

Third Coast Arts Center & The DeSoto Arts Commission

present

AN EVENING OF JAZZ & DINNER

Saturday, June 13th - 7 p.m.

DeSoto Corner Theatre



Bobby Ray Sparks, II



Martha Burks

featuring

Seating is limited. Tickets are \$30 per person and \$50 per couple. To purchase tickets or for more information, please call 972.230.9648. DeSoto Corner Theatre is located in Town Center at 211 E. Pleasant Run Road.



DeSoto, along with the other Best Southwest Cities, was extremely pleased to host the American Veterans Traveling Tribute and Vietnam War Memorial 80% Replica in April. Pictured here are the Paralyzed Veterans Organization offering a 21 Gun Salute. If you missed the Wall in DeSoto, it will be on display at Fair Park in Dallas over the Memorial Day Weekend.